

Maryland's New Child Safety Seat Law

Effective June 30, 2008

What does the new law mean?

The new law says that a child younger than eight years (unless over 65 pounds or greater than 4 feet 9 inches tall) must ride in a correctly used child restraint system* that meets Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. The new law applies to all vehicles in Maryland.

Is my child too big for a car seat?

Children who outgrow a car seat at around 40 pounds need to ride in a booster seat because the vehicle seat belts will not fit them well.

Does my child need a booster seat?

Take the five-step test on the back of this flyer or go to the website www.carseat.org. Or, you can attend a car seat inspection near you. There, a certified child passenger safety technician can help you secure your child properly.

How long should my child be in a booster seat?

The law requires that children ride in booster seats up to age eight (unless over 65 pounds or greater than 4 feet 9 inches tall). However, most children should ride in booster seats until about 8 to 10 years of age, when they are big enough for lap and shoulder belts to fit properly.

*Child restraint systems include infant seats, convertible seats, forward-facing seats, booster seats, or other safety devices federally approved for use by children in motor vehicles.

In Montgomery County, call the Montgomery County Child Passenger Safety Program at 240-777-2467 or the Child Passenger Safety Hotline number at 240-777-2222.

For more information, or to get a list of upcoming seat checks in your area, call Maryland Kids in Safety Seats (KISS) at 800-370-SEAT.